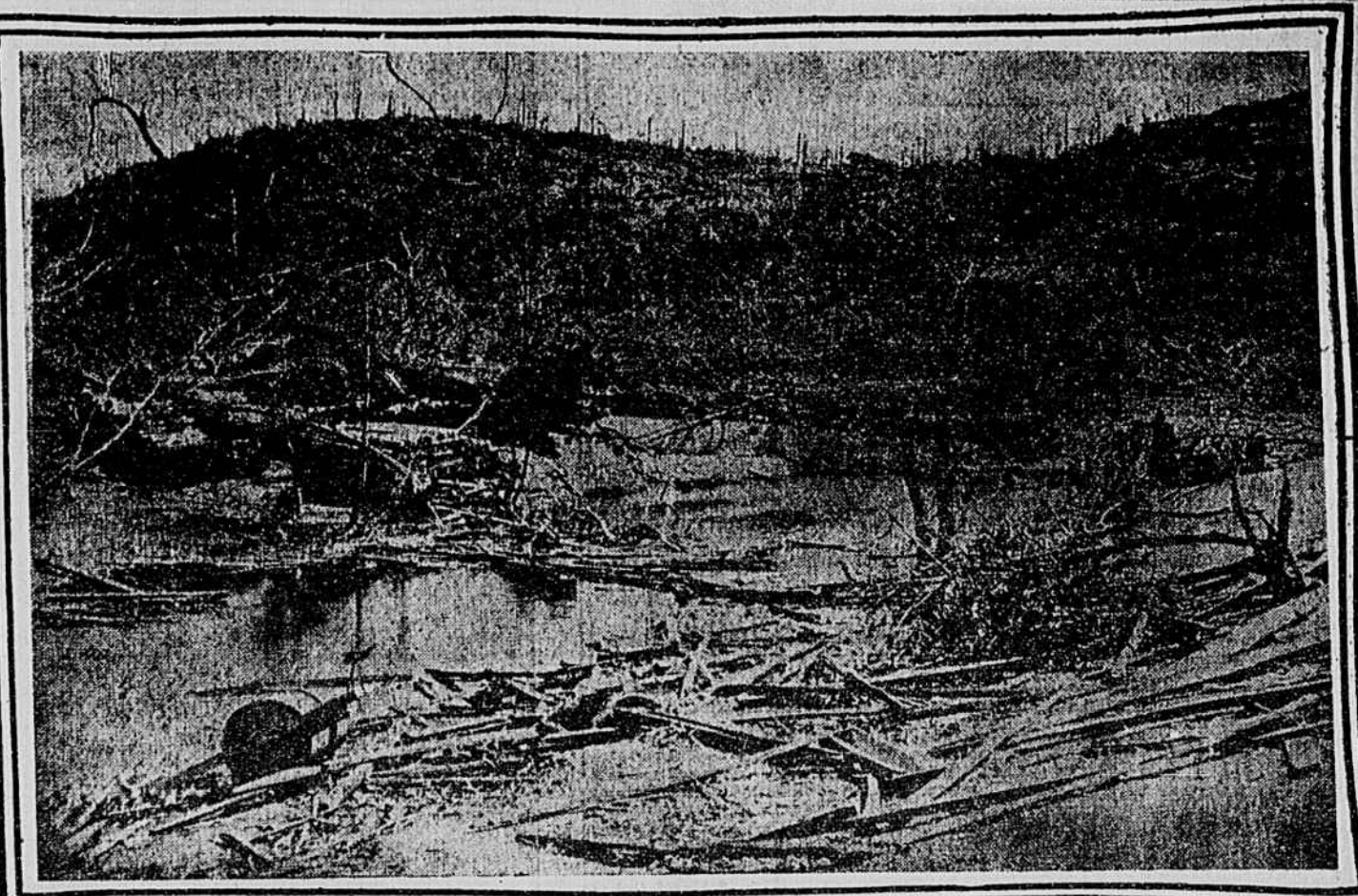


Frantic Work of Rescue Goes On, but It Is Against Terrible Odds



Flood scene in the Mississippi Valley.



This photo shows graphically the awful strength of the wind. Mighty monarchs of the forest were uprooted and tossed about like matches and finally deposited in a tangled mass hundreds of feet away.



Remains of a residence and a stable piled together at Franklin, Tenn.



GOVERNOR JOHN H. MOREHEAD, of Nebraska, who is on the ground at Omaha and directing the work of rescue.



Livery stable at Murfreesboro, Tenn., with part of front and roof ripped off.

FLAMES ADDING TO DESTRUCTION

Fire Breaks Out During Afternoon, Increasing Ruin at Dayton.

10,000 PEOPLE IN DANGER

Pestilence Is Threatened Through Streets Filled With Dead Bodies and Refuse.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
Phonetic, O., March 26 (By long distance telephone to New York, 8:50 P. M.)
The fire which broke out here this afternoon is still raging at this hour, although it was reported to be almost entirely under control.

A telephone company employee who has just returned from the north side of Dayton, which is the submerged district, reports that the known loss of life is 500, but may be much greater as conditions preclude a close estimate to present.

Ten thousand persons are marooned in buildings and on the roofs of houses. The indications are that unless much relief reaches Dayton before morning the loss of life will be doubled. Many bodies not accounted for in the above estimate were seen floating through the streets.

There are 600 refugees in the high school, the foundation of which has been undermined, and the building was in imminent danger of collapsing.

Babies Born in Church
Three babies were born this afternoon in a church where over a hundred persons are marooned.

Early this afternoon a child was born in an open boat as the mother was being conveyed to a place of safety. The rain was pouring down in torrents at the time, and no assistance could be rendered the mother for two hours.

Four hotels and several churches, as well as many of the prominent business blocks in the city have either been completely destroyed by fire, or have collapsed when their foundations were washed from under them.

At 7 o'clock, the fire which was raging in the business centre of the city was reported as being partially under control, due mainly to the heavy rain throughout the day. At 8:50, however, a second report said that the fire was increasing rapidly and that unless it was checked within a few hours the entire business district would be destroyed. At 8 o'clock Major Anderson, commanding a battalion of the State militia, left here in an effort to reach North Dayton. The water in the streets of Dayton, which yesterday was a maximum of fifteen feet, had receded to an average level of four feet at 6 o'clock this evening.

The plant of the National Cash Register Company, five miles from the centre of Dayton has been turned into a hospital and general refuge for the sufferers. President John H. Patterson, of the National Cash Register Company, has ordered a special train from Cincinnati, with surgeons, nurses,

food and clothing, boats and 500 cots.

A number of boats have been constructed at the National Cash Register Company's plant, and these are being used in the rescue work.

Farmers and all inhabitants for miles around have poured into the flooded district, and are aiding in every possible manner in removing the debris to places of safety. The rescuers have found much difficulty in persuading many persons to leave the scene of disaster until they are certain that all other members of their families are safe.

Trying to Escape Flames.

From the edge of the flooded area in North Dayton the telephone man could see many persons running from roof to roof in the business district in an effort to escape the flames. During the early afternoon the fire raged with terrific persistence. No estimate can as yet be made as to the number burned to death.

People are huddled in churches, public buildings and occasionally in attics or on the roofs of private houses, and the sight of these refugees is most pathetic.

Many children are separated from their parents, and in other parts of the district frantic mothers are calling for them, not knowing whether they are dead or alive.

There is great danger that disease will spread rapidly among the marooned persons, owing to the many dead animals and refuse which are floating among the buildings, and, as the water subsides, is collecting and already beginning to become putrid.

On all sides is heard the cry for food and drinking water. Such food as can be procured is being distributed by relief parties in boats among the persons who are huddled in the buildings. But the supply of fresh water suitable for drinking for miles around Dayton has been polluted.

At 8:50 o'clock this evening an employee of the telephone company named Anderson, who is stationed at the foot of the nearest telephone pole to Dayton, reported that from the accounts which had been turned into him in the last few hours, the first account of the loss of life was exaggerated. He said that the conservative estimate placed it at not more than 500 known dead.

and the complete "reserve medical supply," comprising hundreds of drugs sufficient to treat 20,000 patients for one month. Precautions against the spread of disease are to be handled by sanitation experts.

Miss Mabel Boardman, of the American Red Cross, was active at the headquarters here, telegraphing orders to nurses at Cleveland and Cincinnati, and calling upon other near-by chapters for physicians and nurses.

Life-saving crews were ordered from Louisville to Dayton and from Lorraine, Ohio, to Delaware, Ohio, and the Public Health Service distributed its agents over the afflicted districts.

Trying to Restore Mail Service.
Postmaster-General Burleson directed the department's representatives to make every possible effort to install temporary mail-service and restore the main routes between the East and West as rapidly as possible. Only the railroad routes close to Lake Erie have been able to get the mails through from the West, and there has been practically no local service in the territory bounding Cleveland, Toledo, Columbus, Indianapolis, Terre Haute and the Ohio River. All lines south of the Ohio are reported open.

Mails which regularly pass East and West through the flooded districts will be detained until further notice. The Postmaster-General made a futile effort to-day to learn the damage to

WILSON QUICKLY ORDERS AID GIVEN

Lays Aside All Else in Effort to Assist Sufferers.

EVERY AGENCY IS AT WORK

Supplies Under Way and Troops Ordered to Be in Readiness.

Washington, March 26.—The principal function of the government of the United States to-day was to extend relief to the thousands of homeless survivors of the Ohio and Indiana floods.

In quick succession every agency of the government, from the President, the Secretary of War, to every bureau chief in the departments under whom relief expeditions could be organized, moved swiftly to assist the State authorities in providing food, shelter and medical attention for the sufferers.

All the troops of the Department of the East were ordered to hold themselves in readiness for duty in the flood districts.

One million rations, sufficient to feed 200,000 people for five days, at least, are being purchased by the War Department at the nearest supply depots and hurried to the Ohio and Indiana towns.

Tents to shelter at least 50,000 people, thousands of blankets, cots, hospital and field supplies are being loaded in the Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, St. Louis, Chicago, Fort Thomas, Ky. and nearby army posts, and within twenty-four hours should reach the devastated sections.

Messages of Sympathy.

Messages of sympathy exchanged by the President and the Governors of Ohio and Indiana were followed quickly by a series of requests for help, which were promptly answered by the government departments. The President was in his office all day in close touch with the situation. He was in constant communication with Secretary Garrison of the War Department. He apprised Chairman Martin, of the Senate, and Fitzgerald, of the House Appropriations Committee, that the government was going ahead with emergency expenditures on the assumption that Congress would back up the administration later on. They both wired promises of hearty support, and orders went out on every side for a gigantic work of relief. The President called upon the people of the nation to contribute money liberally to the American Red Cross, which in turn appealed to the Governors of the States to help gather relief funds.

Majors James Normyle and James A. Logan, Jr., experienced in fighting the Mississippi Valley floods, were ordered by Quartermaster General Aleshaire to Columbus, Ohio, to take charge of distributing food supplies for the Federal government.

Major H. C. Fauntleroy was sent immediately to Columbus to handle the medical supplies. Nine medical officers and fifty-four hospital corps went from the Department of the East, carrying a big supply of surgical dressings, antityphoid prophylactics

and the government's stamped envelope factory at Dayton. There is no danger of stamp shortage, as all adhesive stamps are furnished by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing here.

Roanoke People Unable to Hear From Stricken Ones in Omaha.
Roanoke, Va., March 26.—Mrs. R. M. Krantz, of this city, a native of Omaha, Neb., where her family now resides, not until this morning could obtain information of their fate, following the tornado of Sunday in the Nebraska city. A telegram was received to-day, however, saying that all are well and unhurt.

Mrs. Krantz's mother, Mrs. S. R. Kelly, and her sister, Mrs. J. M. Lowe, both of Omaha, have visited in Roanoke often.

Delos Thomas, general freight agent of the Norfolk and Western, has been endeavoring to reach his brothers and sisters, who live in Omaha. Up to tonight he had not heard a word from them, and, naturally, is in a state of suspense.

Mr. Thomas's brothers are Joseph and Theodore Thomas, and his sisters are Misses Hattie and Ida Thomas. Joseph Thomas lives on Vinney Street, in the fashionable residential section, and his two sisters live with him.

Theodore Thomas lives in a suburb of Omaha. Delos Thomas has been unable to learn whether the homes of his brothers were in the storm-swept section. Lists of the dead and injured printed to this time do not contain the name of Thomas.

INHABITANTS ARE FLEEING TO HILLS

SEEKING THEIR RELATIVES

Situation in Indiana Is Rapidly Growing More Critical.

REPORTS ARE ALARMING

May Be Days Before Number of Dead Is Known.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
Southbend, Ind., March 26.—Advices received here to-night by telephone indicate that the situation throughout the State is growing worse. The situation at Peru is critical. No definite figures as to the loss of life in that city are obtainable, but estimates range from fifty to 200. The property loss is placed at \$2,500,000. Seventy-five hundred persons are homeless. At Logansport the water continues to rise and the big Third Street bridge was swept away this evening. The Sixth Street bridge is being washed out. The inhabitants are fleeing to the hills. Much of the residence section in Terre Haute is under water and the damage is estimated at over \$2,000,000. Railroad traffic throughout the State has been almost completely suspended.

Definite word from Indianapolis is unobtainable. Reports are that 200 persons were drowned in West Indianapolis, when an earthen levee protecting the lowlands broke and allowed the water to engulf the place.

A telephone message received from Peru this evening says the city is without light or heat. The water supply has been cut off and sanitary conditions are horrible. Two thousand people are huddled on the courthouse square, which is three miles from the nearest dry lands. One thousand others are marooned in a hospital, while 300 children are imprisoned in a school building. The upper floors of all factories and office buildings are crowded with refugees.

The only motorboat in the city has been disabled and rowboats cannot venture into the raging torrent, so that Southbend relief volunteers are unable to get blankets and food to the sufferers.

Warned by the rapidly rising waters, hundreds of people in Peru last night sought refuge in the hills three miles out of the city. The thousands who were not so fortunate were driven to the public buildings and factories where they are now packed like sardines in a box. All day long there was but a single block in the entire town which had not been submerged by the swollen Wabash River.

The entire southern section of the city was swept away. Entire families were trapped in homes. Two hundred and twenty-five injured were started for Southbend to-night. The bravery of Edward Mack, a fisherman, saved approximately 600 people from death. When every one else refused to go into the affected territory to warn the inhabitants of the coming inundation, Mack, at the risk of his life, set about the task single-handed.

Appeals to World for Aid



JAMES M. COX, GOVERNOR OF OHIO.

National Cash Register Building at Dayton



In this building boats are being built to rescue those marooned by floods.